

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MORE ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN THESSALONIKI

REF: THESSALONIKI 0123

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING HEAVY PRIOR PUBLICITY, APPROX 10,000-15,000 STUDENTS PROTESTED OUTSIDE CONGEN FOR ONE HOUR LATE FEBRUARY 15. DEMONSTRATORS, WHILE HIGHLY AGITATED, WERE CONTAINED BY POLICE REINFORCEMENTS WITHOUT HARM TO PERSONNEL OR BUILDING. END SUMMARY.

2. REACTING TO DENKTASH FEBRUARY 13 DECLARATION, REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL MAJOR THESSALONIKI STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS MOUNTED LARGE, NOISY, BUT GENERALLY WELL-CONTROLLED, DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE CONGEN FEBRUARY 15. CROWD WHICH ASSEMBLED AT NEARBY ARISTOTELOUS SQUARE AT APPROX 1630 FOR SPEECHES INCLUDING REPLAY OF PAPANDREOU SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT ON THIRTEENTH, SUBSEQUENTLY REGROUPED AND REACHED CONGEN AT 1830.

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3. WHILE NEWSPAPER ESTIMATES RANGE UP TO 25,000,

CONGEN OBSERVERS JUDGED DEMONSTRATORS NUMBERED 10,000-15,000. DENSE CROWD STAGED ORDERLY MARCH PAST BUILDING WHICH BLOCKED WATERFRONT BOULEVARD, CHANTING AND DISPLAYING USUAL ANTI-US SLOGANS SUCH AS "KISSINGER MURDERER" AND "AMERICANS SHOULD LEAVE COUNTRY NOW."

4. NEW THEMES INCLUDED URGINGS THAT KARAMANLIS AND MAKARIOS "GO TO MOSCOW" AND THAT GOG REQUEST AID FROM USSR. AT CONCLUSION OF MASS DEMONSTRATION, SPLINTER GROUP OF ABOUT 600 FROM MAOIST AASPE DISOBEYED ORDERS OF STUDENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO MOVE ON AND REMAINED FOR ADDITIONAL PERIOD. SLOGANS OF LATTER INCLUDED STRONG CRITICISM OF KARAMANLIS, BITSIOS AND CLERIDES, AS WELL AS CALLS FOR "DEJUNTAIZATION" OF GOG. GROUP ALSO PLEDGED CONTINUING DEMONSTRATIONS UNTIL "LAST AMERICAN IS THROWN OUT OF GREECE". HEAVY POLICE REINFORCEMENTS INCLUDING FIRE TRUCK SURROUNDED BUILDING AND, ALTHOUGH A FEW STONES WERE THROWN, NO DAMAGES OCCURRED.

5. ALL THESSALONIKI WEEKEND PAPERS FRONT-PAGED PHOTOS AND REPORTS OF DEMONSTRATION, AS WELL AS DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS FROM LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING THESSALONIKI FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES, ARCHITECTS' FEDERATION, STATE PHYSICIANS OF NORTHERN GREECE, LOCAL LAWYERS' GROUP, AND MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL. "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" INACCURATELY REPORTS THAT PETITION WAS DELIVERED TO CONGEN BY STUDENTS.

6. MASSIVE TURNOUT FEBRUARY 15 FOLLOWED SMALL DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE CONGEN AT 1730 FEBRUARY 14 BY APPROX 200 STUDENTS OF THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY DORMITORY. LATTER DELIVERED MILD PETITION OPPOSING "UNJUSTIFIED ACTIONS OF TURKEY IN CYPRUS", DECLARING SUPPORT FOR CYPRIOT PEOPLE, AND DEMANDING "IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM ISLAND".
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